



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System

Media Advisory

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Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System celebrates National Salute to Veteran Patients

NEW ORLEANS – National Salute is observed annually during the week of Valentine's Day for VA and the community to come together to honor and appreciate Veterans.

“National Salute is a great opportunity for community organizations, businesses and the general public to volunteer in support of our nation’s heroes,” said Fernando O. Rivera, SLVHCS Medical Center Director.

The week will kick off with LSU and Loyola students handing out cards to inpatient Veterans, followed by a Valentine’s Day party hosted by Elks Lodge #30 in the Community Living Center. The Salvation Army will lead recreation games and serve king cake to inpatient mental health, and DAV Chapter 33 and SLVHCS leadership will deliver gifts to all inpatients at the facility. In addition to inpatient events, SLVHCS volunteers will join VA police officers in handing out Valentine cards, popcorn, and gun locks to all Veterans visiting the medical center.

“National Salute to Veteran Patients gives every American the chance to thank Veterans for their freedom by sending Valentines to VA medical facilities,” said Rivera. “Send your today or take the extra step to visit our heroes in person by volunteering at the Southeast Louisiana Veterans Health Care System.”

To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Voluntary Service at 2400 Canal Street, Suite 1E111, email at yhanolvoluntaryservice@va.gov or call 1-800-835-8387, ext. 62105.

For more information about the new Veterans medical center, clinic locations and other services available to Veterans in southeast Louisiana, visit the website www.neworleans.va.gov, or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, keyword: VANewOrleans.

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